CLOSED SHELF

The People's Korea

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U.S. Gov't Apologizes to DPRK Gov't

Representative of U.S. Government Signs Document of Apology

Korean Central News Agency Report

PYONGYANG, Dec. 23 (KCNA) —The Korean Central News Agency was authorized to report as follows:

At the repeated requests of the U.S. imperialists, a meeting has been held in Panmunjom many a time so far between the representative of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the representative of the U.S. Government to discuss the question of the crew of the armed spy ship "Pueblo."

After their armed spy ship "Pueblo" was seized on Jan. 23 last on the very scene of crime by the self-defence measures of the Korean People's Army, while conducting espionage and hostile acts after intruding into the territorial waters of our country, the U.S. imperialists resorted to every conceivable shameless machination to cover up the criminal acts of the crew of the "Pueblo" and shirk the responsibility for them.

But, finding it impossible to conceal with anything the crimes committed by the crew of the "Pueblo" and evade the responsibility for them, Maj. Gen. of U.S. Army Gilbert H. Woodward signed the following document of apology on behalf of the U.S. Government at the meeting held in Panmunjom on Dec. 23 and submitted it to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

"The Government of the United States of America, acknowledging the validity of the confessions of the crew of the USS Pueblo and of the documents of evidence produced by the representative of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the effect that the ship, which was seized by the self-defence measures of the naval vessels of the Korean People's Army in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Jan. 23, 1968, had illegally intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on many occasions and conducted espionage activities of spying out important military and state secrets of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Shoulders full responsibility and solemnly apologizes for the grave acts of espionage committed by the U.S. ship against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after having intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

And gives firm assurance that no U.S. ships will intrude again in future into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Meanwhile, the Government of the United States of America earnestly requests the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to deal leniently with the former crew members of the USS Pueblo confiscated by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea side, taking into consideration the fact that these crew members have confessed honestly to their crimes, and petitioned the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for leniency."

Taking into consideration the confessions and petition of the crew of the "Pueblo" and relevant apology and assurance of the U.S. Government, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea decided to expel the crew of the "Pueblo" from the northern half of the Republic. According to this measure the entire former crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" were expelled from the northern half of the Republic through Panmunjom at 11:30 on Dec. 23, 1968.

Dec. 23, 1968.

Stat't of DPRK Foreign Office Spokesman

PYONGYANG, Dec. 23 (KCNA)—Follows the full text of the statement of the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

The U.S. imperialists, who had made a persistent attempt to cover up the criminal acts of the crew of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" but found it impossible to shirk the responsibility any longer, were forced to apologize to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for their crime on Dec. 23.

It is only natural for the U.S. imperialist aggressors to apologize for the criminal acts of sending the armed spy ship to intrude into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and conduct espionage and hostile activities, and they should have done so long ago.

As is already exposed thoroughly to the world, the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" captured by the self-defence measures of the Korean People's Army on Jan.23 last, had intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as many as 17 occasions and spied on important military and state secrets of our country and committed hostile acts.

This brigandish piracy which flagrantly encroached upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a link in the whole chain of the premeditated manoeuvring of the U.S. imperialists to unleash another war in Korea.

The capture of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" was the legitimate exercise of the sovereignty by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the due punishment upon the aggressors.

When the "Pueblo" was captured in the territorial waters of our country, the U.S. imperialists revealed their aggressive nature more plainly.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors, while taking war posture and aggravating tension to the extreme by concentrating large numbers of their ground, naval and air forces in the coastal waters of our country and South Korea in their ridiculous attempt to "threaten" some one, manoeuvred desperately to camouflage the criminal acts of the "Pueblo" and to mislead world public opinion.

The U.S. imperialists were brazen enough to clamour that the armed spy ship "Pueblo" was "on high seas" and "did not commit any criminal acts" at the time of its capture. Until the very last moment of their signing the document whereby they admit and apologize for the criminal fact that the "Pueblo" had perpetrated the espionage and hostile activities after intruding into the territorial waters of our country, they persisted in their attempt to escape their responsibility, repeating such preposterous allegations.

However, unable to find any more excuse and dodge the responsibility for having organized such crimes in front of the confessions by the crew and various material data testifying to the criminal acts of the "Pueblo," the U.S. Government signed and submitted to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the document which solemnly apologizes for the fact that the armed spy ship "Pueblo" intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for many times and perpetrated the espionage and hostile activities and firmly assures that no U.S. ships will intrude again into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the future, earnestly requesting the lenient dealing with the crew.

This means the ignominious defeat of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and constitutes another great victory for the Korean people who have crushed the "myth" about the "mightiness" of U.S. imperialism into smithereens.

The crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" should be duly punished in accordance with the law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as criminals caught in the very act of espionage.

But taking into consideration the fact that they confessed frankly to their criminal acts and repeatedly asked for lenient forgiveness and that the U.S. Government gave its apology and assurance, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has decided to expel the crew from the northern half of the Republic.

The U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" and all the equipment and weapons installed on board of it were confiscated by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea simultaneously with the capture as they were means of aggression and crime used in intruding into the territorial waters of our country and carrying out espionage and hostile acts.

The incident of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" which roused a unanimous indignation of all the peace-loving countries and the progressive peoples of the world will be recorded forever in the shameful U.S. imperialist history of aggression, and the U.S. imperialists will never erase this stern fact by whatever means.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors should draw due lessons from the shame and defeat they have suffered

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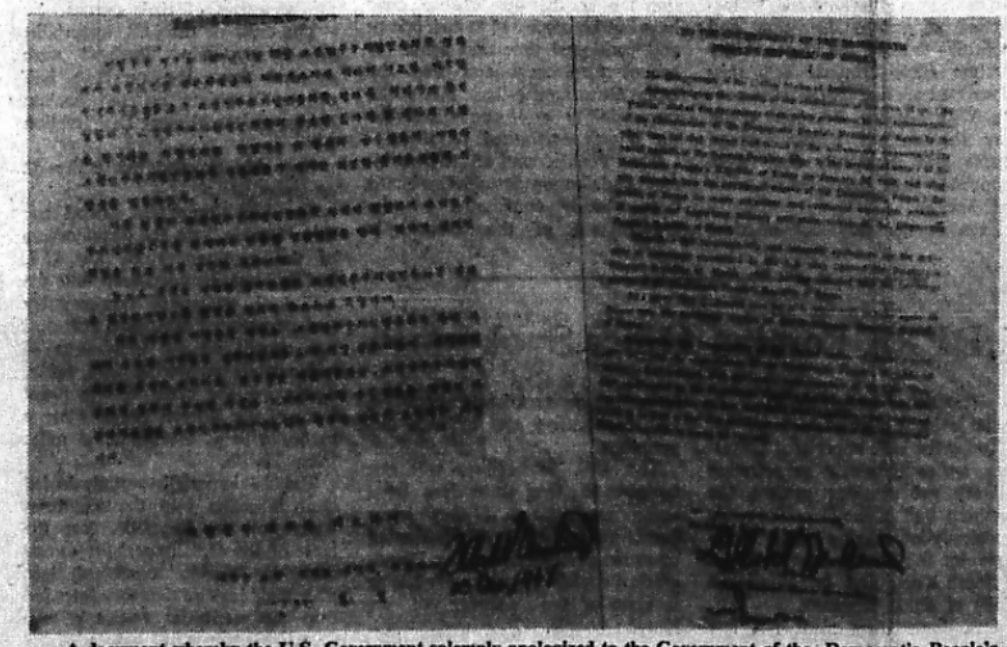

A document whereby the U.S. Government solemnly apologized to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people

Woodward, representative of the U.S. Government, signing the document whereby the U.S. Government solemnly apologized to the Government of the DPRK and the Korean people admitting the piratic espionage and hostile acts committed by the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo"

U.S. Imperialists Bend Knee Again Before Korean People

U.S. Government Admits Criminal Acts of Armed Spy Ship "Pueblo" against DPRK; Apologizes for Them; DPRK Government Expels "Pueblo" Crew

PANMUNJOM, Dec. 23 KCNA Special Correspondent—Seeing there is no way out before the indubitable evidences of their grave criminal acts and the just and resolute stand of the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the vehement denunciation of the people of the whole world, the U.S. imperialists who had been resorting to all sorts of shameless intrigues to cover up the brigandish acts of intrusion of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and her espionage acts, admitted their crimes eventually on Dec. 23 and apologized to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people for them and gave an assurance that they will not repeat such criminal acts.

Taking into consideration such apology and assurance of the U.S. imperialists, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today expelled from the northern half of the Republic the entire former crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" which was caught on the scene of crime on Jan. 23, 1968, by the self-defence measures of the Korean People's Army, while committing espionage acts after intruding deep into the territorial waters of our country.

Thus the U.S. imperialists bent the knee again to the Korean people before the world people, which is a deserving punishment for their arrogant criminal act, and an end was put to the incident of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo," on which the attention of the political, public and press circles of various countries of the world had been focused for 11 months.

This is a brilliant victory of our Party's line of self-defence put forth by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the revolution.

The people of the whole world unanimously hail the great victory of the Korean people who, through the incident of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo," put to shame and defeated once again the U.S. imperialists, the chieftain of aggression, and shattered to smithereens the "myth" about the "mightiness" of U.S. imperialism.

Today Panmunjom, the historic place where the U.S. imperialist aggressors sustained a miserable defeat in the war against the Korean people 15 years ago and, bending the knee before the Korean people, signed an instrument of surrender focused on it the attention of the people the world over once again as the U.S. imperialists knelt to the Korean people and apologized for the incident of the armed spy ship "Pueblo," and recorded one more history indicting the U.S. imperialists before the world for their ugly nature as the aggressor and criminal.

Today Panmunjom was congested with a large number of home and foreign reporters, who came to cover the historic event showing the ugly feature of the U.S. imperialists, the defeated, and with their media of news coverage.

Looking at the beautiful scene of villages in the North which had completely wound up autumn harvesting with joy over bumper crop and the desolate scene of the South where reeds were rustling in the wind, the two different scenes forming a sharp contrast with the Sachun River between them, the reporters were unable to repress surging resentment at the U.S. imperialists who have divided the territory and the nation of our country, reduced the southern half into a dark land and infiltrated their armed spy ship "Pueblo" in an attempt to provoke a war again in Korea.

Among the reporters were those who shaking their fists at the U.S. scoundrels strutting around across the Sachun Bridge, shouted to them to go back home. A foreign reporter cursed and expressed hatred for the scoundrels, saying: "This is not the borderline of the United States. There is no need for you scoundrels to remain here."

At 9:00 sharp, at a meeting place in Panmunjom, the U.S. imperialists were brought to justice.

The U.S. imperialists, who could no longer find an excuse before the undeniable material evidences of their criminal acts, were signing a document admitting their criminal acts and apologizing for them.

At this moment when the U.S. Government was apologizing to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea before the world, the fingers of Woodward, representative of the U.S. Government, who was holding a pen, his reddened face leaning over the document of apology, were trembling as if in convulsions and he occasionally showed a fit of surprise.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors who shamelessly demanded our side apologize, like a thief crying "Stop thief," denying their grave criminal acts from the first days of the capture of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" were signing the document of apology. This reminded people of the battered General Clark who, wearing a cap without a feather in it, signed the instrument of surrender to the Korean people 15 years ago.

The U.S. imperialists resorted to all sorts of desperate machinations —threatening, blackmailing, farfetched allegation, deception and so forth—to shirk the responsibility for the grave criminal acts they committed against the Korean people. With nothing, however, could they frighten the heroic Korean people and eventually they were brought to their knees before truth and justice.

Even at the very last moment they were signing the document of apology, the U.S. imperialist aggressors frantically tried to evade this disgrace.

But the document of apology signed by them will remain for ever in history as the evidence of the brigandish crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and their disgraceful defeat and a record of the great victory of the Korean people.

Late at 11:00, the representative of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued the following statement before home and foreign reporters, members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and the crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" gathered north of the Sachun Bridge:

"Today the U.S. Government signed and submitted to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a document in which it assumes the full responsibility and solemnly apologizes for the intrusions into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the armed spy ship 'Pueblo' and its grave espionage activities and firmly assures that no U.S. ships will intrude again into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the future, earnestly requesting the lenient dealing with the former crew of the USS 'Pueblo' confiscated by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea side.

Originally the crew of the armed spy ship 'Pueblo,' as spies caught on the very scene of crime, within the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, should duly be punished in accordance with the law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, however, has decided to expel the whole crew of the armed spy ship 'Pueblo' from the northern half of the Republic, taking into consideration the fact that the 'Pueblo' crew have frankly confessed to their crimes and petitioned time and again for lenient forgiveness and that the U.S. Government has taken the responsibility and apologized for the crimes committed by them.

The 'Pueblo' and all the equipment and weapons installed on board were already confiscated by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the time of its capture because they were the means of aggression and crime used in intruding into the territorial waters of our country and perpetrating espionage and hostile activities.

I declare that in accordance with the measures taken by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, all of the former crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship 'Pueblo' will be expelled from the northern half of the Republic through Panmunjom at 11:30, on Dec. 23, 1968."

Home and foreign reporters who heard shortly before over radio the statement of the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic and the statement made just now by the representative of the Government of the Republic, could not repress their admiration for the unshakable anti-imperialist stand of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea once again manifested in dealing with the "Pueblo" incident and its steadfast stand of not compromising with the aggressors in the slightest degree and expressed all-out sympathy with the principled leniency shown by the Government of the DPRK to the criminals who confessed to their crimes.

The former crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" who had thought that they would be unable to escape capital punishment and severe penalties for the graveness of the crimes they committed expressed unanimous thanks to the Government of the Republic for its humanitarian measure of showing leniency to them.

On behalf of the entire crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" Lloyd Mark Bucher, its captain, stepped out before the microphone.

Not to speak of all the home and foreign reporters, the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops entrenched in the frontline area listened with attention to the loud-speaker.

Captain Bucher once again spoke the truth of the intrusions of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" into the territorial waters of our country and its espionage acts and expressed thanks to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its humanitarian treatment during their detention and the leniency shown to them today to open the road of life despite the graveness of their crimes.

The crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" were expelled from the northern half of the Republic on the Sachun Bridge on the Military Demarcation Line.

Our side expelled the entire 82 crewmen.

The U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo," on the direct orders of the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, intruded deep into the territorial waters of our country and perpetrated espionage acts and was caught on the very scene of crime while answering with firing, disobeying the order of the naval force of the Korean People's Army to heave to at the point 7.6 miles from Yo *do*.

The U.S. imperialists totally denied their intrusion into the territorial waters of the Republic. But the crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" confessed right after their capture that they intruded into the territorial waters of the DPRK six times and later admitted

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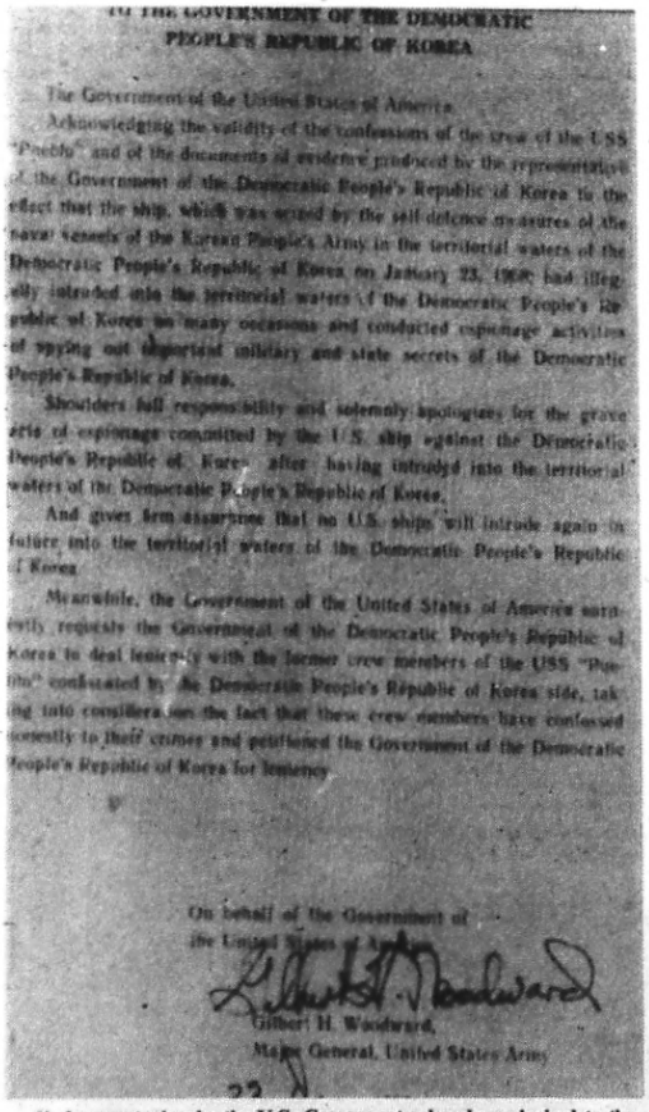

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Government of the United States of America

Acknowledging the validity of the confessions of the crew of the USS "Pueblo" and of the documents of evidence produced by the representative of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the effect that the ship, which was seized by the self-defence measures of the naval vessels of the Korean People's Army in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on January 23, 1968 had illegally intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on many occasions and conducted espionage activities of spying out important military and state secrets of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Shoulders full responsibility and solemnly apologizes for the grave acts of espionage committed by the U.S. ship against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after having intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

And gives firm assurance that no U.S. ships will intrude again in future into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Meanwhile, the Government of the United States of America earnestly requests the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to deal leniently with the former crew members of the USS "Pueblo" confiscated by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea side, taking into consideration the fact that these crew members have confessed honestly to their crimes and petitioned the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for leniency.

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America

Gilbert H. Woodward,
Major General, United States Army

A document whereby the U.S. Government solemnly apologized to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people, recognizing the piratic espionage and hostile acts committed by the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" after intruding deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

...DPRK Foreign Office Spokesman

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in the incident of the "Pueblo."

Today the U.S. imperialist aggressors are continuously perpetrating military provocations against the northern half of the Republic while ceaselessly intensifying war preparations by reinforcing armed forces in South Korea and bringing in all kinds of lethal weapons.

U.S. imperialism must not run wild.

The Korean people will, in the future too, never tolerate aggression and provocative acts of U.S. imperialism.

The U.S. imperialists will not be able to free themselves from severer punishment if they again perpetrate criminal acts of infringing upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in spite of the warning of the Korean people.

PYONGYANG, Dec. 23, 1968.

We Express Heartfelt Thanks to Government and People of DPRK for Leniently Forgiving Us Who Committed Criminal Acts against Korean People

Crew of Armed Spy Ship "Pueblo" Send Letter of Gratitude to DPRK Government

FROM THE SPOT, Dec. 23 (KCNA)— The commanding officer, officers, crew and civilian oceanographers of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" who were caught on the very scene of crime by the self-defence measures of the Korean People's Army while conducting espionage and hostile acts after intruding deep into the territorial waters of our country sent a letter of gratitude expressing profound thanks to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which leniently forgave them and enabled them to return to their families, taking into consideration the confessions of their criminal acts and petitions earnestly asking for leniency and the apology of the U.S. Government and its assurances that it will not commit similar criminal acts again, and accorded them humanitarian treatment during their detention.

They held a meeting and adopted with unanimous approval a letter of gratitude which was signed by commanding officer Bucher and the entire crew.

The letter of gratitude reads in full:

We, the commanding officer, officers, crew and civilian oceanographers of the USS Pueblo humbly offer this note of thanks to the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to express our heartfelt thanks for generously forgiving our serious crimes against the Korean people to enable us to return to our families and for the humanitarian treatment afforded us during our detention here.

We were criminals caught red-handed in the act of espionage intruding deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on many occasions. So serious were these crimes that we ourselves expected for a long time that severe or even capital punishment was all that we could anticipate. Although we have confessed these crimes and are repentant of them we could never expect that such serious crimes could ever be pardoned. Therefore, the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to forgive us generously has brought us such unexpected joy and happiness that we are at a loss as to how to adequately express our gratitude.

Throughout our captivity we have been afforded considerations which go beyond the norms of treatment normally afforded to prisoners. The details of this generous treatment afforded us are already well known and are manifestations of the humaneness of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This has left a deep impression upon us and has changed all the misconceptions that we once had about the Korean people.

We can assure the Korean people that each of us will always be reminded of the generosity of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with each day of our future lives.

During our detention we have come to know the history of the Korean people, and the aspirations for their future. We know that the cherished desire of the Korean people is to live in their own unified country in peace, without any threat or fear of aggression. We have come to understand the pains you have suffered in the past and the agonies you suffer even today from foreign aggression and sympathize with your cherished desire for the peaceful unification.

It has been almost a year since our capture and in this period of time we know our dear ones at home have suffered the pains of longing and separation more than we ourselves. The deep recognition of the seriousness of our crimes and the realization that this incident has hurt our families very much are heavy burdens we have had to bear within our hearts. Through the repentance of our crimes during our detention we have faithfully vowed that by no means could we ever commit such crimes again.

Our being forgiven of these crimes has brought us immeasurable joy and hope for a new life, and we realize that it is only the consideration of the Korean people that has made this possible.

The crimes we have committed against the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are grave, but we ourselves were not the architects of these crimes but only the executors. It is the policy-makers in our country who launched this program of espionage, and it is they who used us for their aggressive purposes.

We believe that the criminal act of the USS Pueblo was another shameful incident in the history of U.S. aggression against Korea and that this had nothing to do with the legitimate defense of the United States. Although we must bear the responsibility for our actions we were only used to further the aggressive designs of the policy-makers in Washington.

Although we consider those who ordered our mission to be ultimately responsible, we ourselves, the participants in the crimes of the Pueblo, have become the criminals who appear before the Korean people for judgement. After receiving the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to forgive us so leniently, we have tried in this short note to express our sincere feelings.

Please accept, then, our unworthy attempt to convey our gratefulness for the undeserved generosity that you have shown to us, even though we are criminals guilty of capital crimes who neither expected nor deserve the generosity we have received. Though we are sincerely repentant of our crimes, our atonement is just beginning, and when we are back home we shall continue to repent for our acts against the Korean people and renew our pledges not to repeat such crimes again. We know that our families join us in our attempt to express our deep thanks to the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and we ask you to accept on behalf of ourselves and our families this heartfelt expression of our gratitude.

The commanding officer, officers, crew and civilian oceanographers of the USS Pueblo

(Continued from page 2)

in face of the stark material evidences produced that they intruded into the territorial waters of the DPRK 17 times.

No evidence is more patent and convincing than hosts of documents and evidences captured together with the armed spy ship "Pueblo" and the confessions of the captain of the spy ship Bucher who directly commanded on the spot the intrusions into the territorial waters of our country and the espionage acts and of other crewmen. This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists doggedly tried with brigandish allegation and sophistry to shirk the responsibility for them.

Increasing shamelessness and craftiness on the part of the U.S. imperialists only revealed to the full the graver nature of their crimes and the period of 11 months brought nothing good to them.

To take as an instance the brigandish order of the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in February, 1966, to conduct surface patrols to the three mile limit off the northern half of the Republic, when our side made public this before the world, touching the U.S. imperialists on a sore place, the U.S. imperialists who had been making absurd allegation twaddled that the instructions were superseded by a new order to the "Pueblo" on Jan. 5, 1968.

But, the reporters from many foreign countries of the world who attended a press conference with crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" on Sep. 12 unanimously admitted that the order of February, 1966, was still valid because it came from the higher authorities of the Navy of the U.S. imperialists while the order of January, 1968, was from the lower authorities. Furthermore, the sophistry of the U.S. imperialists was smashed to pieces when even Lionel Martin, journalist of New York "GUARDIAN," the only U.S. reporter present at the press conference, disclosed this fact in his article.

The U.S. imperialists, driven ever deeper in a predicament with every passing day internally and internationally, could no longer hold on and they, fearful of the disclosure of graver things, were compelled to admit their criminal acts, apologize for them and give assurance that they will not repeat such criminal acts.

Western reporters and South Korean reporters who gathered on a low hill across the Sachun Bridge to cover the expulsion of the former crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" tried to approach closer to the spy criminals. But the U.S. M.P. scoundrels who were afraid of the further exposure to them of the defeat of the U.S. imperialists desperately tried to hold back the excited reporters.

Prior to the expulsion of the spy criminals, our side handed over to the enemy side the ashes of a crewman who met his death while foolishly and recklessly resisting, disobeying the order of the naval force of the Korean People's Army at the time of the seizure of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo."

The ashes showed that our repeated warnings that there will be only corpses and death for the enemies who run wild, turning a deaf ear to our warnings were by no means empty talk and that those who act rashly against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a full-fledged sovereign state, can not escape the same end like the dead one.

One could patently read fear on the ugly faces of the U.S. scoundrels who took and were carrying away the ashes of a crewman who met the most dirty death while conducting espionage acts stealthily creeping into other's country like a thief.

The U.S. rascals hurriedly whisked to the South, carrying the ashes and spies in cars.

The U.S. imperialists must draw a proper lesson from the incident of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" and must not run wild. In the incident of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo," the crewmen could return home alive thanks to the leniency of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. But, if the U.S. imperialists commit again acts of espionage and aggression against our country, violating the assurance they gave against the recurrence of such criminal acts in the document of apology they solemnly signed today, the Korean people who have been placed all under arms and have converted the whole country into a fortress will deal 100-fold, 1,000-fold annihilating blow to the enemies and will not send back even a single one of them alive. The Pak Jung Hi clique, stooges of U.S. imperialism, also must not run indiscreetly.

The former crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" being expelled from the northern half of the Republic according to the measures taken by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The history of aggression of the U.S. scoundrels from the very first days they stretched their talons of pillage to this land is enough to give them a lesson.

The incident of the "Sherman" which was burnt down while intruding into the Daidong River over 100 years ago, the three-year Korean War which marked the beginning of a downhill turn for the U.S. imperialists, the incident of the escort ship No. 56 which was sent to the bottom of the sea while intruding into the territorial waters of our country last year and the incident of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" clearly showed the mettle of the Korean people.

Today the U.S. imperialists are riding roughshod, acting outrageously in all parts of the world, but the incident of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" once again showed that they are not strong and their fate is like the sun setting in the western sky.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved Leader of the 40 million Korean people, said in his report at the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

"Like any other imperialism on the globe, U.S. imperialism, too, is on continuous decline and becoming more moribund. The intensified aggressive manoeuvrings of the U.S. imperialists are no signs of their mightiness but, on the contrary, prove their vulnerability. The more outrageously the U.S. imperialists act, the more difficult their position becomes."

If the U.S. imperialists who are running wild, obsessed by warmania further aggravate the situation and persistently unleash a war of aggression in Korea, turning a deaf ear to our warnings, they will perish in the flames they themselves enkindled.

The Korean people who are under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader, ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and outstanding military strategist, and have a mighty defence capacity based on a firm independent economy will not tolerate any aggressive manoeuvrings of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges but will drive the U.S. imperialists out of South Korea and accomplish the historic cause of national unification without fail.

"We Will Not Involve Ourselves Again in Criminal Acts against Korean People": "Pueblo" Crew

Press Conference before Their Expulsion

FROM THE SPOT, Dec. 23 (KCNA)—Home reporters held a press conference with crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo," which was seized on Jan. 23 last by the self-defence measures of the Korean People's Army, while conducting espionage and hostile acts after intruding deep into the territorial waters of our country, before they are expelled from the northern half of the Republic in accordance with the lenient measures the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adopted, taking into consideration the confessions of the crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" to their criminal acts and earnest petition for leniency and the apology of the U.S. Government and its assurance that it will not repeat similar criminal acts in future.

Present at the press conference were newspaper, news agency and radio reporters including reporters of Rodong Shinmoon, the Korean Central News Agency and the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee.

Attending it on behalf of the entire former crew of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" were commanding officer Lloyd Mark Bucher and all officers, senior oceanographers and six delegates of navymen selected by themselves.

Follow the questions and answers at the press conference:

QUESTION. How do you feel now when you are allowed to go home to the United States and your families through the lenient decision of the Government of the DPRK?

ANSWER. PO1 PEPPARD:

I believe we have always felt that the repatriation would occur but it always seemed in the distant future, never close at hand.

I have spent many nights without sleep thinking about my dear wife and three lovely daughters, hoping and dreaming of the day when I would be able to hold them in my arms again.

Now, our repatriation will soon be realized and I find myself choked up with emotion. My heart cries with happiness and I must strain myself to hold back the tears from my eyes. It is hard to find the words to express my overwhelming joy and happiness.

This joy and happiness that I feel at this moment has been made possible through the leniency and generosity of the DPRK Government and the Korean people. It is the DPRK Government and the Korean people who are allowing us to be repatriated to return to our homes and families even though we, confessed criminals committed unpardonable crimes and provocations against them. I have heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the DPRK for the lenient treatment afforded to us, and I will go back home with the fine memory of the Korean people and their country. Thank you.

ANSWER. PO1 BARRETT:

For 11 long months now I have been living in agony and often times in fear of my life because I had committed a grave and serious crimes against your country, a crime so serious it is punishable by death.

But, on this joyous day a great weight has been lifted from my shoulders and now I am being allowed to be reunited with my beloved daughter, my son and my wife whom I have missed very terribly and at times I thought I might never see again.

This day has been provided for me, because the Korean people have generously forgiven me, a criminal such as I. The Korean people have no mercy upon criminals such as I, but they are gracious and kind people and have forgiven me and allowed me to return home to my family provided that I have sincerely confessed and have become repentant for my serious crimes. No words can at this time properly express my emotions for this generous forgiveness the Korean people have shown me. At this time of the year, the Christmas season to the reuniting of my family and the regaining of my freedom, it is perhaps the greatest gift a man could receive. I can never thank you enough the Korean people for having made this dream come possible. I know also that my family are equally thankful and grateful to the Government of the DPRK for allowing us to be reunited again. I will never be able to forget as long as I live this feeling of gratitude for the generosity and forgiveness shown to me by the Government of the DPRK. Thank you.

QUESTION. How is your health before going home now?

ANSWER. TUCK, CIVILIAN OCEANOGRAPHER:

This question can be answered very simple.

The health of the entire 82 crew members is in excellent condition. When we recall our past, we cannot help thinking of our guilt and the generosity bestowed upon us by the DPRK Government.

The crimes committed by the crew are very serious and created a grave situation here in the Far East. However, considering our position as undesirable espionage agents, we were treated most humanely and with the greatest leniency by the DPRK Government. Throughout our stay here we continually received three hot meals a day, warm living quarters, suitable winter and summer clothing, all the daily necessities of life, extensive and thorough medical care, sports and free time, and movies at least once a week.

For this treatment all the crew now is very thankful. Speaking from the depth of my heart for all the crew members and myself I'd like to express our most profound gratitude to the DPRK Government for the leniency which has been bestowed upon us during our detention here.

Once again our thanks to the DPRK Government and the Korean people. Thank you.

QUESTION. What is your most unforgettable impression on our country during your detention here?

ANSWER. HARRIS, RESEARCH OFFICER:

For the crimes I have committed I expected to receive the punishment of death but I've learned the true humanitarian nature of the Korean people who took into consideration the fact that we were only military men carrying out orders of our superiors and that we have the loved ones waiting for us back home. We have apologized for our crimes and sincerely repent for them.

Now, I am very much aware of the ardent desire of the Korean people to live together peacefully in a unified land. As I joyfully look forward to rejoining my family again, I think those many Korean families who are still separated by the national split after so many years. I certainly hope that this desire of unifying the country can soon be realized.

I am confident that this desire, this cherished desire of the Korean people can be realized only when the U.S. armed forces are withdrawn from South Korea. Thank you very much.

ANSWER. PO2 LANGENBERG:

I have gained many vivid impressions of Korea and its people during detention which I will take home with me. Perhaps the most vivid came just after capture. I quite frankly expected either death or a long imprisonment for my crimes against the Korean people, but instead I was afforded generous humanitarian treatment, and now beyond my wildest hopes, I am to return home. During the detention whenever I sat down at the dinner table, and while I was playing volleyball, I came to realize the lofty moral character of the Korean people and the extent of their generosity. And through films, and publications, I was greatly struck by the industry and dedication that these people display in constructing their society.

After 11 months of detention I have come to understand what separation from family and relatives can mean. And so, I deeply sympathize with the ardent desire of the Korean people to live peacefully in a unified nation and end their separation of 23 years. Soon I am to be repatriated to my home, I sincerely hope that the Korean people will some day soon experience the joy of national reunion and live peacefully and happily in a unified nation. Thank you.

QUESTION. I have one question. The U.S. Government did not believe your confessions and the previous press conferences being true, claiming that they were arranged and designed for propaganda purposes. And does anyone want to make a comment on this?

ANSWER. PO1 GINTHER:

Well, apparently our press conferences received wide and varied reactions. And according to our letters these press conferences roused much public opinion. But for those who consider these press conferences as mere propaganda, this was namely our Government.

We don't really see how they could say this because these press conferences were the unanimous requests of the entire crew and they were designed in order to present truth of our missions. And we also don't see how our own ardent desires could be considered as propaganda.

We being people caught red-handed, so we ourselves were most knowledgeable of our crimes so therefore we told the truths of our mission as we know them to be. It is therefore our own consideration that the denials made by the U.S. Government is just a mere attempt to save face in the world. Thank you.

QUESTION. So far the U.S. Government has denied constantly the violation of our territorial waters by the "Pueblo." What do you think of this?

ANSWER. MURPHY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

The obvious facts, the charts, records, our frank confessions and other material evidences are unquestionable and irrefutable evidences which clearly show the great guilt and our grave crimes which we have committed.

The tremendous amount of material evidence which proves our espionage is overwhelming. I myself personally along with my assistants using the information from the charts and records which we recorded during our navigation fixed the positions each of the 17 intrusions. Each of these positions I personally pinpointed using the information from our own charts and records.

I also critically inspected these charts and records and assured myself that these are the same charts and records we maintained aboard the Pueblo during our navigation. From the great amount of evidences, the charts and records I myself and every person in the crew is positive that the ship not only was committing espionage but also intruded into the sovereign waters of the DPRK. Thank you.

QUESTION. The U.S. Administration has expressed its readiness to apologize the crimes of the "Pueblo" and make assurance not to repeat such hostile acts again after having denied the true facts of the "Pueblo" case for the past 11 months, which are already known to the world. What do you think of this?

ANSWER. MURPHY, EXCUTIVE OFFICER:

I'd again like to comment on that. As the executive officer and navigator of the Pueblo, I feel that I'm in a position to make a qualified statement in that regard.

The obvious facts and the evidences of this case were made known to the world peoples shortly after our capture. It is obvious that the position taken by the United States Government in denying the facts, and refusing to apologize was a vain effort to save their face. And at last realizing that it is useless to deny any more their obligation and responsibilities in organizing our crimes they have come to admit, apologize and give assurances that such will not be repeated again.

The long time has passed; it has become obvious that the fate of the entire crew members of the USS Pueblo has been abandoned in an effort to save the face of the U.S. Government. Thank you.

QUESTION. What do you think of the principled stand the DPRK has constantly maintained on the "Pueblo" case?

ANSWER. SCHUMACHER, OPERATIONS OFFICER:

In view of the facts that espionage is a moral crime condoned by the peoples of no nation, and that intrusion into the territorial waters is violation of the sovereignty of the nation concerned and also against the international law, we feel that the stand taken by the DPRK is just and reasonable. Further, this stand is based on the moral basis of the Korean law and as such is generous and humane. I and the rest of the crew of the Pueblo, as well as our families, will be terribly grateful for the stand taken by the DPRK concerning the Pueblo. And I think that the apology offered by the United States Government shows the surrender of injustice to justice. Thank you.

QUESTION. You said that during your detention here you have learned much about Korea and her people. And what is your view on the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist aggression army and the Korean people's desire to unify their country?

ANSWER. BUCHER, COMMANDING OFFICER:

U.S. armed forces have occupied South Korea for more than 20 years. I believe their continued presence in South Korea is wrong. I further believe that these forces should be removed at the earliest possible moment.

The Korean people are opposed to occupation of their country by foreign troops because it is the cause of division of their country and the misery of the Korean people.

We hope that the ardent desire of the Korean people to reunify their country peacefully will be achieved at the earliest possible moment.

We further hope that this reunification will take place without any foreign intervention. Thank you.

ANSWER. PO1 MACK:

My name is L.W. Mack, PO1.

During the most of detention here in the DPRK I have experienced for myself the great loneliness and heartache I can be brought down by being separated from one's family and loved ones. I can feel sympathy for the Korean people because of the lectures that I have learned, since being here in the DPRK and I can sympathize with their cherished desire to unify their country, I can now understand the misery and sufferings that the Korean people have experienced and experiencing due to the fact that their country is artificially divided and they are separated from their families, loved ones and compatriots in the southern part.

I sincerely hope that my country will reexamine its policies concerning Korea. And I certainly feel that the Korean people have every right to unify their country with no U.S. intervention whatsoever. I further resolve to work towards the realization of the cherished dream of the Korean people when I return to my country.

QUESTION. What are your future plans?

ANSWER. HARRIS, SUPPLY OFFICER:

I have come to realize after great deal of thought that the espionage activities against the DPRK and intrusions into their territorial waters we were ordered to do is morally wrong. Since that time I have truly tried to be repentant for my espionage activities. Violating of territorial waters including espionage is a very serious and grave crime against any sovereign country and it endangers peace in the world. After coming to this answer I know my conscience will never again permit me to take part in espionage activities again. After repatriation I will not be able to follow orders given by the U.S. policy makers which involves aggression against other countries.

After repatriation I hope to return to college for a higher degree. Then I desire to teach school and in this way help people to lead their lives more sincerely promoting among them that for man to live in peace is not through aggression against other countries.

ANSWER. SGT. CHICCA:

I would like to thank the generous Korean people and their Government for their benevolent leniency in forgiving us and allowing us to return home. I have conceived many hopes and plans for the future during my time here in detention. Foremost, in my mind of course, is to be reunited with my wife and family whom I miss very

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Japanese Government Must Promptly Issue Reentry Permit to Korean Celebration Group Here

CHONGRYUN Issues Stat't on Ruling of Tokyo High Court

The Central Standing Committee of CHONGRYUN (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) published a statement on Dec. 18 in connection with the fact that the Tokyo High Court ruled against the step taken by the Japanese Government not to permit the delegation of Koreans here to reenter Japan after visiting the DPRK to attend ceremonies to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The statement reads in full:

In its ruling of the second instance, the Tokyo High Court dismissed on Dec. 18 all the grounds of the appeal made by the Japanese Government on the question of reentry into Japan of the delegation of Koreans here to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK and ruled that it admitted wholly the arguments of the celebration delegation.

As is well known, on Oct. 11 the Tokyo District Court ruled that the Japanese Government took an illegal step when it failed to permit the delegation of Koreans here to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, and ordered it to cancel the step.

The decision of the Tokyo District Court proved that the demand of Korean citizens here for the visit to their homeland is fully justifiable, and at the same time declared illegal the Japanese Government's unjust policy of discrimination against Korean citizens here and its encroachment upon their basic human rights and asked the Japanese Government to reconsider the matter.

Actively supporting the decision of the Tokyo District Court, broad public opinion strongly demanded that the Japanese Government, respecting this decision, immediately ensure the freedom of travel to and from the homeland for Korean citizens here including the celebration delegation.

Despite this, the Japanese authorities appealed to the Tokyo High Court, saying that they were "dissatisfied" with this, unable to point out any concrete grounds for that.

In connection with this, the Tokyo High Court concluded its hearings on the case after it heard on Nov. 27 oral arguments once, and today ruled that it fully supports the first instance verdict, rejecting all the grounds for appeal.

Following the Tokyo District Court, the Tokyo High Court also ruled that the attitude of the Japanese Government which has denied the freedom of travel to and from the fatherland for Korean citizens here is illegal. This clearly proves once again how justifiable it is that Korean citizens in Japan demand the recognition of the freedom of travel to and from their homeland.

It is a common human feeling that people residing overseas for a long time wish to visit their beloved homeland, meet their own flesh and blood and acquaintances who have been separated from each other for many years and pay homage to the graves of their ancestors.

Therefore, modern international law stipulates as one of the basic human rights that citizens of a sovereign state residing overseas should be allowed to travel to and from their fatherland out of the necessity of their living, and this is recognized as one of international practices.

In fact, while ensuring travels abroad and travels to and from their fatherland for all other foreigners in Japan, the Japanese Government is denying Korean citizens here alone this freedom.

Owing to this, the freedom of travel to and from their homeland and travel abroad have been denied Korean citizens here for 23 years since August 15 Liberation and they find themselves in a situation similar to confinement.

Korean citizens here have waged strenuous struggles for long to overcome this unreasonable and abnormal situation and materialize the freedom of travel to and from their homeland, an urgent humanitarian desire and fundamental human right.

In particular, it is very natural that Korean citizens here formed a celebration delegation consisting of representatives from all walks of life in order to participate in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, their socialist fatherland, which is daily prospering and developing under the wise leadership of Marshal Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the 40 million Korean people, and demanded permission of its travel to and from their homeland.

As is well known, participating in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the glorious fatherland of the Korean people, were over 100 delegations and missions of delegates from more than 70 countries of the five continents of the world.

Nevertheless, because of the unjustifiable attitude of the Japanese Government, the celebration delegation of Korean citizens here, full-fleged overseas citizens of the DPRK, was unable to visit the fatherland.

Such an attitude of the Japanese authorities is not only an unjust act violating international law and humanitarian principles, but a completely illegal act in the light of Japanese national law as was made clear on two occasions in the decisions of the Tokyo District Court and the Tokyo High Court.

Especially, in the light of the historical conditions of Korean citizens here, such an attitude of the Japanese Government is still more unjustifiable, unreasonable and malicious.

As everybody knows well, Korean citizens here are those who did not come to Japan of their own free will, but were compelled to come here, deprived of livelihoods under Japanese imperialist colonial rule or were forcibly brought here for forced labor or military services, and their children.

In view of the historical fact, it is natural that the Japanese Government should duly treat Korean citizens here as foreigners and insure democratic, national rights for them.

This notwithstanding, engaged in the national discrimination and persecution of Korean citizens here, the Japanese Government is imposing "ROK nationality" upon them, discontinuing their repatriation service, suppressing their national education and refusing to permit their travels to and from the homeland.

This is an expression of the undisguised hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people.

We resolutely condemn with surging national indignation the Japanese authorities for the unjust attitude.

The support of public opinion within and without for the just demand of Korean citizens here for permission to visit their homeland is increasing as the days go by.

With whatever excuses, the Japanese authorities can never justify the unjustifiable attitude of continuously denying Korean citizens here the travel to and from the homeland.

Particularly today when, following the decision of the Tokyo District Court, the Tokyo High Court also ruled that it is illegal to suppress the travel of Korean citizens here to and from their homeland, we can not tolerate any longer the fact that the Japanese Government continually sticks to this unjustifiable attitude.

We demand that the Japanese Government, not resorting to unjust machinations such as "an appeal to the Supreme Court," respect public opinion and the decisions and immediately permit the celebration delegation to visit the homeland and reenter Japan, and at the same time strongly demand that it recognize in an all-round way the freedom of all Korean citizens here to travel to and from their homeland.

We strongly demand that the Japanese Government recognize by normal means the travel of Korean citizens here to and from their homeland, respecting the basic human rights and principles of international law, and at the same time ensure for them the democratic, national rights, including DPRK citizenship, the right to repatriation and the right to national education.

We will, firmly united around Marshal Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the 40 million Korean people, wage a stronger movement to realize in an all-round and normal way the freedom of travel to and from their fatherland with the support of broad public opinion here and abroad.

Chairman Han Duk Su of the Central Standing Committee of CHONGRYUN gave a press conference in connection with the fact that the second instance Tokyo High Court ruled in favour of the congratulatory delegation concerning the question of its proposed reentry into Japan.

Chairman Han Duk Su Meets Press

Chairman Han Duk Su of the Central Standing Committee of CHONGRYUN (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) gave a press conference to Korean and foreign reporters at 4:00 pm, Dec. 18, at the Korean Hall in connection with the fact that, defeating the Japanese Government, CHONGRYUN won a ruling in support of its case in the Tokyo High Court concerning the question of reentry into Japan of the delegation of Koreans here to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and read a statement of the Central Standing Committee of CHONGRYUN.

Also present at the press conference were vice-Chairmen Ri Kye Baik and Huh Nam Ki.

Chairman Han Duk Su answered questions put by newspapermen.

In his answers he emphasized that Korean citizens would, in the future, too, wage a stronger movement until the free travel to and from the fatherland is realized in an all-round and normal way.

At the same time, Chairman Han Duk Su replied to the questions of newsmen regarding the news reports that the Japanese Justice Ministry permitted eight Koreans here to travel to their homeland and return here, out of many Koreans who had filed applications for free travel to their homeland, adding:

This means that the demand of Koreans in Japan for the recognition of free travel is very justifiable and that the Japanese Government authorities are unable to suppress it any longer.

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much. For myself, I plan to continue my college education and upon graduation to devote my life to the betterment of the world and mankind. I hope to help make this world a better place in which to live. I've never seen my son as yet, he was born while I was here in detention, but I plan to raise him to be a truthful and honest person who will never commit such espionage against any nation. My life in the future will always be one of truth and honest and I will try to tell other of the ardent desire of the Korean people to reunite their country.

Once again thank you for this cherished opportunity to return home and turn my dreams into reality. Thank you.

QUESTION. What do you think will become of your position when you go back to the United States?

ANSWER. HARRIS, SUPPLY OFFICER:

Yes, this is an area which I have given much consideration because of the possibility that the U.S. Government might try and take action against us.

In the very beginning the United States Government refused to admit the espionage and intrusions into the territorial waters of the DPRK. But we the crew members of the USS Pueblo were caught red-handed committing espionage and intrusions and the evidence supporting that is now in the hands of the Korean People's Army.

If upon my return some of the authorities in the United States Government try or force me to state something that is not the truth I will then be guided by my conscience and in the future I will stand by the honest truth no matter what the circumstances may be. Thank sir.

CHAIRMAN: One suggestion, I don't think the "Pueblo" crew has much time to spend now and we have talked quite many questions so far. Now do you have anything more to say to the correspondents before closing this press conference?

ANSWER. BUCHER, COMMANDING OFFICER:

Yes, on behalf of the entire crew of the Pueblo I have a few words to say to the Korean people. We of Pueblo have been held here in detention in the DPRK now for almost a year, having been the instrument of provocation against the Korean people. We confessed our crimes of espionage and intrusions into their territorial waters. These crimes are proven by the documents and records captured with us. Although we confessed our crimes honestly, apologized and gave assurances that we would never be involved ourselves in crimes of this nature again and asked for leniency the Korean people were fully within their rights, the sovereign rights to punish us in accordance with their law. The fact that the Korean people have forgiven us is almost unbelievable to us. We are deeply moved and grateful.

Please tell the Korean people that we promise to never again involve ourselves in crimes of this nature.

On behalf of the entire crew of the Pueblo I wish to thank the Korean people. I wish to thank them deeply and the Government of the DPRK for this opportunity to be forgiven and be reunited with our families. And if I may add, each of us is so fairly overjoyed at the news of going home that it would be quite impossible for me or anyone else in this crew to accurately describe the deep emotional thanks that we have to the Korean people. The memory of your humanity we will cherish and carry with us for the remaining of our lives. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: Well, so much for this press conference.

Appeal for Worldwide Support to Struggle Of Koreans Here for Free Travel

Tokyo District and High Courts Gave Case to Koreans Here against Jap. Gov't

1. Detailed Account of Case

In a hearing over an administrative litigation suit brought against the defendant, the Justice Minister of the Japanese Government by the plaintiff, the delegation of Koreans from Japan to attend the ceremonies of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Tokyo District Court ruled on Oct. 11, 1968 in favour of the plaintiff. The delegation consisted of its head Mr. Huh Nam Ki and 11 members. In its ruling the Tokyo District Court ordered the defendant, the Justice Minister should withdraw his administrative step against the application filed by the plaintiff for a reentry into Japan, wholly accepting his argument.

On Dec. 18 of the same year, in its ruling, the second instance Tokyo High Court upheld the verdict of the lower court, dismissing the appeal made by the Justice Minister.

About 600,000 Korean citizens have been forced to live in Japan as a result of the past colonial rule over Korea by the Japanese imperialists. They are those who were compelled to leave their homeland to earn their livelihood in this country, deprived of their land and jobs, or forcibly brought here for forced labour or military service, and are their children. They were prevented from returning home by the U.S. army which occupied South Korea after the end of the Second World War. Korean citizens here have undergone countless hardships due to the postwar Japanese Government's hostile policy toward Korea.

However, inspired by the fact that their true fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has daily been prospering and developing under the leadership of Premier Kim Il Sung, the great Leader since its founding on Sept. 9 of 1948, 600,000 Korean citizens here, rallied around CHONGRYUN (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), have fought for friendship between the Korean and Japanese peoples and in defence of their rights.

These Koreans have been denied practically all chances of making overseas trips, not to mention a travel to their fatherland, in the past 23 years since World War II, by the Japanese Government. Only two old Korean men were permitted to visit their homeland from the end of 1965 to the New Year Days of 1966.

The year 1968 is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In view of this, CHONGRYUN selected 12 representatives from Korean citizens of various strata across this country to organize a delegation to attend the ceremonies of the 20th founding day of the fatherland. The delegation filed on Jul. 23 of 1968 with the Japanese Minister of Justice an application for permission of reentry into Japan after a visit to the DPRK, telling that it would leave Japan around Aug. 22 of the same year to take part in the celebrations of the 20th founding day held in the fatherland.

However, the Japanese Justice Minister ignored the application for permission of reentry into Japan, while the date for departure to home was approaching. Considering this, on Aug. 16 of the same year, the delegation instituted a legal suit against the Japanese Justice Minister, the defendant, demanding confirmation of illegality of his forbearance. This litigation suit was conducted in accordance with the Administrative Litigation Suit Law which stipulates: When a Government office has failed to take some step or adopt a decision with regard to an application which was legally filed, for a certain period, though required to do so, the applicant may ask for confirmation of illegality of its forbearance.

Panicked by this lawsuit, on the 20th of the same month, the Justice Minister notified the complainant of his decision not to recognize the planned reentry without specifying the reason for it. Promptly, the plaintiff changed his charge so as to demand the court nullify the Justice Minister's non-recognition of the reentry.

2. Arguments of Plaintiff and Defendant and Court Ruling

The history of mankind is advancing toward establishment of freedom of overseas travels for all peoples of the world. Freedom of overseas trips has established itself as a natural right and one of the basic human rights.

The human race which has survived the past two world wars and fascism, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in it, established the principle of free international communication and transportation which points to this direction.

The freedom of overseas travels is now universally accepted as a principle of international law. Therefore, a question concerning a reentry into a country of a foreigner should be approached from this stand.

In the light of Japanese domestic law, Article 22 of the Japanese Constitution ensures every person freedom of residence, freedom of movement, freedom of choice of occupation, freedom to move to a foreign country and freedom of divestment of nationality. This stipulation must be interpreted as permitting freedom of temporary overseas trips. Unlike a foreigner wishing to enter this country, a foreign resident in Japan ought to have guaranteed by the Constitution his right to temporarily leave this country for an overseas trip and reenter this country.

The right of Korean citizens here to travel to and from their fatherland, the DPRK, should be secured more than that of other ordinary foreigners, particularly in the light of the fact that Koreans' forced mass settlement in this country was a result of the Japanese imperialists' past colonial rule over Korea.

It is a natural expression of the desire of the plaintiff in Japan as human being to take part in the celebrations of the 20th founding day of their fatherland which has made great strides since its founding; not to permit this is an infringement upon the right of the plaintiff and is unlawful, and the defendant's decision not to recognize the planned reentry into Japan of the plaintiff must be withdrawn.

The above-mentioned is a synopsis of the complainant's charge.

The defendant argued: A foreigners' reentry into Japan is a kind of an entry whose permission or non-permission is at the discretion of the Government. Furthermore, the plaintiff did not apply for a reentry into Japan. Even though the complainant had applied for it, his application lacked necessary procedures. For this reason, it is not illegal for the Government not to recognize it. Refuting this argument, the plaintiff told the court that the defendant, the Justice Minister had no right to charge with the plaintiff with the insufficiency of application procedures because the Justice Minister had refused to issue passports and Justice Ministry-prepared application forms to the Korean citizens who had no passports.

After a close examination, the Tokyo District Court, fully accepting the charge made by the plaintiff, rejected the contention of the defendant that no application itself was allegedly made by the plaintiff and that the application procedures were allegedly insufficient. In the ruling the court said: "A reentry, unlike an ordinary entry and exit, means that a foreigner allowed to stay in Japan leaves this country with a view to reentering Japan before the expiration of his authorized period of stay. Though restricted by an authorized period of stay and the like, it may be understood essentially as a temporary overseas travel by a foreigner whose domicile is in his place of residence in Japan. By the way, Article 22 of the Japanese Constitution states that every person is entitled to the freedom of residence and movement and that his freedom to move to a foreign country shall not be violated unless it interferes with the public welfare. This provision, judging from its intent, must be interpreted as recognizing freedom of temporary overseas trips (freedom to go abroad), and the same provision may as well be construed as applicable to all foreign residents who are obliged to obey Japanese law." The court went on to say: Article 26 of the Immigration Decree stipulates: "The Justice Minister can grant permission of a reentry into Japan to a foreigner residing in Japan who leaves this country with a view to reentering Japan before his authorized period of stay expires." This must be interpreted as meaning that the Government authorities may refuse a reentry into Japan of a foreigner, only provided it is prejudicial to the public welfare. Moreover, the defendant's reason for non-recognition of the proposed reentry by the plaintiff was not necessarily clear. (Failure to give concrete reasons for the measure itself contravenes the basic principles of the Administrative Litigation Suit Law.) The defendant alleged that the Japanese Government makes it a consistent policy not to allow in principle Korean citizens here to reenter Japan after visiting the DPRK because there exists no government in the DPRK which it recognizes and because there is no friendly relation between the two countries which presupposes recognition, but only when it issues a permit of reentry for humanitarian reasons. So, this time, the Government refused to permit the proposed reentry, the defendant argued. As freedom of overseas travels is one of the basic human rights of all foreign residents in Japan as well as Japanese people, however, it ought to be recognized except in cases the person concerned is supposed to attempt to disturb public peace and order or to harm the interests of Japan. This question must not be determined by whether or not the foreign country concerned is recognized by the Japanese Government. Since more than 300 out of about 50,000 Chinese residents in Japan have been allowed to visit the Chinese People's Republic and return here in the past, it is easy to see that it is not necessarily a consistent policy of the Japanese Government not to recognize a reentry into this country of a foreigner after a visit to a foreign country which has not been given diplomatic recognition by it.

Thus, the Tokyo District Court ruled that "The step in question must be withdrawn because it is unlawful."

3. Developments after First Instance Court Ruling

Paragraph 2, Article 33 of the Administrative Litigation Suit Law states: "When a measure of rejecting or dismissing an application has been nullified by a court ruling, the Government office which took the measure ought to take an action to decide anew on the application when filed again, according to the intent of the court ruling." Consequently, the defendant the Japanese Justice Minister should have accepted the ruling, immediately withdrawn his non-recognition and taken steps to permit the delegation's reentry. However, the defendant appealed the case to a higher court on that very day when the court ruling was given. So, the case was brought before the second instance Tokyo High Court.

Almost the same arguments as the lower court were carried over into the Tokyo High Court. The Justice Minister charged with particular stress that the delegation has now no legal benefits to seek for in getting withdrawn the step taken not to recognize its reentry because the purpose of its trip, that is, participation in the celebrations of the 20th founding day of the DPRK, has been made impossible by the elapse of the planned date. Disproving the charge, the congratulatory delegation declared that the objective of the proposed trip lies in meeting and sharing joy with people in the homeland, celebrating the 20th founding anniversary of the fatherland, so, the passage of the planned date cannot affect the necessity for seeking nullification of the non-recognition whatever because it is ready to leave Japan for the homeland at any time when a reentry permit is granted.

The ruling totally accepted this argument of the delegation and, advancing the verdict of the first instance court one step forward, said in clear-cut terms: Though the Justice Minister alleges that permission of the proposed reentry into Japan will harm the national interests of Japan, the national interests of this country should be found in being harmony with all countries. It is wrong to decide that an exercise by a foreigner of his own legitimate freedom is prejudicial to the national interests of Japan because of fear that it may adversely affect the friendly relations with a certain foreign country. It is impermissible to make conclusion that an exercise by a foreigner of his own legitimate freedom interferes with the public welfare solely because it is not in line with the current policies of the Government.

The verdict further said: A national founding day celebration is a most universal and open practice in all countries the world over. Any country has no justifiable reason to refuse citizens of a foreign country who reside in it a chance of taking part in the celebration.

However, the Justice Minister immediatily appealed again the case to the Supreme Court, stubbornly refusing to obey the ruling which is most reasonable and in agreement with the stand of respecting human rights and justice. Now, final court hearings on the case are expected to start soon in the Supreme Court.

4. Struggle of Koreans Here And Support of Japanese People

As above-mentioned, Korean citizens have virtually been kept in a state of confinement within the insular boundaries of Japan for 23 years since the Second World War, forbidden to go abroad.

So, they have waged stubborn struggles to win the right to freely travel to and from their fatherland and other countries.

In particular from 1964, over 2,000 Korean citizens went through formalities, asking for the Justice Minister's permission for reentry into Japan after visiting the DPRK, encouraged by the united might of all Korean citizens in Japan, but the Japanese Government turned down almost all of them.

Today, broad sections of Japanese people are positively supporting the struggle of Korean citizens here, bitterly accusing their Government for its unwarranted infringement upon the basic human rights of Koreans here and showing sympathy with the struggling Koreans. So far, the number of Japanese local assemblies throughout this country, beginning with the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, which adopted resolutions demanding immediate realization of the right of Koreans here to visit and return here from their fatherland, have already reached 1,170. This figure eloquently shows how vigorously Japanese people are supporting the just struggle of Koreans in Japan.

The rulings of the Tokyo District Court and the Tokyo High Court were won as a result of the resolute struggles of Korean citizens in Japan and thanks to the support of Japanese people in all walks of life. In order to force the Japanese Government to alter its obstinate attitude so as to enable Korean citizens here to win the right to travel to and from their fatherland and other countries, victory must be won for the case which is now placed at the Supreme Court, and the struggle must be more energetically carried out.

We sincerely wish to have all peace-loving peoples of the world who love justice and value human rights well informed of the case and render active support to our struggle in Japan, informing you that the Tokyo District Court and the Tokyo High Court gave the case to us against the Japanese Government.

Mr. Huh Nam Ki, head of the delegation of Koreans from Japan to attend the ceremonies of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Mr. Rinji Kondo, chief counsel for the delegation in the lawsuit

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